



COUNCILMEMBER IKAIKA ANDERSON DISTRICT 3 UPDATE—JULY 2009

Aloha,

530 S. King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 768-5003 Fax: 768-5001
Email: ianderson@honolulu.gov

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Aug. 11

Zoning	9 am
Public Infrastructure	1 pm

Wednesday, Aug. 12

Budget	9 am
Executive Matters	1pm

Thursday, Aug 13

Transportation & Planning	9 am
Public Safety & Services	1pm

District 3 Staff

Paulyne Anakalea
Executive Secretary

Gail Myers
Senior Adviser

Andrew Malahoff
Senior Legislative Aide

Venus Acoba
Legislative Aide

Sharon Basmayor
Legislative Aide

With the budget now behind us, the Council will now be looking forward to next year. All indicators available point toward continuing financial challenges for our State, the counties and our residents. Recently, as I'm sure many of you are aware, the Council made the difficult decision of increasing some fees and tax rates. While I am no strong supporter of these increases – let alone any increase – the political reality of the situation was that there were only two options: vote against the Mayor's proposed budget and increases with the ultimate result being that his budget with a higher real property tax rate and burden on our taxpayers would still take effect or try to draw out a compromise with a reasonable likelihood of passing. My proposal, by the very nature of it being a compromise, did not make dramatic attention-grabbing cuts but it did rein in the final budget by an additional \$22M. This kept the increases in property tax rates and various parking rates noticeably lower than what had been proposed. Regardless of the negative way in which Mayor Hannemann tried to paint the budget passed by the Council, it was a responsible alternative to the overtaxing mechanism proposed by his Administration.

I am extremely grateful that my colleagues did ultimately support my proposed compromise as it did require a break from status quo and some hard choices. One component of my compromise which generated the greatest debate was the elimination of a "one-time tax credit" for homeowners in favor of an overall lower residential property tax rate. The supporters of the "one-time tax credit" argued that this was one way we could protect our homeowners. I would certainly agree with this argument only if the City did not provide any other relief to our homeowners through other means. Of course, this is not the case as homeowners already realize a savings on their property tax bill through the "homeowner exemption". This exemption saves the average homeowner nearly \$300 and the savings increases further for older owners. More importantly, the City also has a separate tax credit program for homeowners with an income of less than \$50,000. I also felt that government should, first and foremost, be honest with our taxpayers. A "one time tax credit" which continues year after year and is funded by increasing taxes is neither "one time" nor a "tax credit". I am also hard pressed to find any reliable correlation between a home's value and the income of its owner. Admittedly, there is a correlation between the purchase price of a home and one's income – but a home's purchase price and its value are not the same. But, again, the Council has always been mindful of those with limited finances which is precisely why the income-based tax credit (originally introduced by the late Councilmember Marshall!) was permanently established. Remember that you need to apply for the income-based tax credit every year. The updated forms will be available on-line by the end of this month and they must be submitted by September 30th. If you need help obtaining these forms, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

District 3 Events

3TALKS

“3Talks” are held throughout the district every month. All 3Talks start at 7pm and the public is encouraged to come and meet with their Council-member and staff.

Wednesday, July 22
Waimanalo Public Library
41-1320 Kalanianaʻole Hwy.

Tuesday, August 18
Kaneohe Community &
Senior Center
45-613 Puohala Street

TBA
St. John Lutheran Church
1004 Kailua Road

Although it may seem like the only thing that's been going on over the last three months has been the budget, I've also been kept busy working with both the City and several community groups on a couple of projects. Nearly two months ago my office was inundated with email, mail and phone calls from hundreds of constituents worried about the City's planned removal of various trees throughout Kailua. As if to add insult to injury the City was proposing to replace the iconic Royal Ponciana trees with shower trees. Working with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Division we were able to ensure that the diseased trees to be removed, along Kainalu Drive, would be replaced with new Royal Ponciana trees!

Lastly, as I'm sure many of you are aware, the annual July 4th fireworks display at Kailua Beach will be held this year! It seems like it was only yesterday – last month to be accurate – that it seemed as though this tradition had come to an end. Thanks to the efforts of numerous private citizens, businesses and very accommodating government entities, this Kailua tradition will go on! Congratulations, and thank you very much, to all of the community and civic leaders in our community for your kokua, efforts and, of course, dollars to help perpetuate this wonderful event. Happy July 4th to one and all, and please practice safety.

Mahalo,

Ikaika

WANA AO ROAD/KEOLU DRIVE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

The City recently announced that it is anticipated the contractor will complete working on the following construction activities: collector line final inspection, abandoning the existing sewer manholes, filling portions of the existing sewer line with grout and curb and gutter restoration. It is anticipated later this year the Contractor will begin the road reconstruction portion of the project along Wanaao Road.

The work on Keolu Drive will continue with construction activities such as completing the installation of the open trench trunk sewer line, continue construction of manholes, backfilling shafts, continue operation of by-pass pumps as needed, continue jet grouting, complete microtunneling set up for pipe installation, and complete the new lateral installations and manholes along the new collector line along Keolu Drive at Kupau Street. Also, new work is anticipated to begin at these intersections for new pedestrian crosswalk poles, lights and signage, and potholing for existing utilities.

During the month of June the Contractor successfully installed the remaining 8" new sewer collector line both along Wanaao Road and Keolu Drive. 100% of the new 8" sewer collector line along Wanaao Road and Keolu Drive has been installed.

Area residents who may be affected by the work have been notified by the City. However, if there are any questions or concerns with the work the contractor can be contacted via their telephone hotline at 230-8333. **Additional information may be found on their website at www.wanaaosewer.com**

Hours Of Operation: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 6:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am to 6:00pm